

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device for sound suppression in the human ear, especially for avoiding sleep disturbances due to noise and other sounds, characterized in that in at least one of two sound suppressing ear plugs (10, 12) is integrated a radio receiver (14, 16) with means for converting into audio signals radio signals received from a transmitting station (18), wherein the transmitting station (18) is connected to at least one alarm generating means (24-34) and/or at least one means (36) for picking up sounds, in order to convert an alarm and/or at least a sound into a radio signal received by the radio receiver (14, 16) depending on the event.~~

A device for avoiding sleep disturbances due to noise and other sounds, comprising means for detecting specific snoring sounds by capturing them through a microphone and a sound recognition system wherein a specific snoring sound is stored and compared with the captured snoring sound, in order to detect the specific snoring sound;

a radio station operatively connected to said means for detecting specific snoring sounds and further including an input mechanism being at least one of a clock with an alarm function, a telephone, a doorbell station, a baby monitoring device, a smoke alarm, and a receiving part of a movement of a movement detector, and being operative to emit on reception of the specific snoring sound and/or an input from the input mechanism, a radio signal, and

two sound-insulating earplugs at least one of which includes an integrated radio receiver for receiving the radio signal emitted by the radio station and means for converting received radio signals to audio signals.

2. (Original) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the earplug (10, 12) is made of silicone or silicone-like material which is molded or foamed individually in the outer ear and in which the radio receiver (14, 16) with the means for the conversion of radio

signals received from the transmitting station (18) to audio signals is integrally cast or foamed or fitted exchangeably.

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the means for the conversion of radio signals received from the transmitting station (18) to audio signals is a diaphragm.

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that the nature of the audio signals, in particular the volume, can be adjusted beforehand.

5. (~~Original~~Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the audio signals reproduce the alarm and/or the sound identically.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that the alarm-generating means (24 - 34) and/or means which picks up sounds (36) is connected directly or by radio to the transmitting station (18).

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the alarm-generating means (24 - 34) and/or means which picks up sounds (36) is integrated in the transmitting station (18).

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that the sound-producing or alarm-generating means is a digital or analogue clock (22) with an alarm function.

9. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that the sound-producing or alarm-generating means is a telephone (28), a doorbell station (30), a baby monitoring device (32), a smoke alarm (34) or the like device which triggers an audio alarm.

10. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, characterized in that the sound-producing or alarm-generating means is the receiving part (26) of a movement detector (24).

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, characterized in that the means which picks up sounds (36) is a microphone.

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, characterized in that between the means which picks up sounds (36) and the transmitting station (18) is arranged a means for recognition of the sounds picked up (38) and in that by means of recognition only certain sounds which can be specified beforehand are transmitted from the transmitting station (18) to the radio receiver (14, 16).

13. (Original) Device according to claim 12, characterized in that the means for recognition of the sounds picked up (38) is a hardware-assisted and/or software-assisted speech or snoring recognition system.

14. (Original) Device according to claim 13, characterized in that the audio signals caused by the snoring and transmitted to the person snoring are of such a volume that the person snoring is wakened or at least caused to change his sleeping position.

15. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~, characterized in that the device can be used by several users simultaneously, wherein each user has two sound-insulating earplugs (10, 12) and in at least one of the earplugs (10, 12) is integrated a radio receiver (14, 16) with a means for the conversion of radio signals received from a transmitting station (18) to audio signals.

16. (Original) Device according to claim 15, characterized in that, by the means for recognition of the sounds picked up (38), it can be specified beforehand to which user of the device a particular sound picked up is to be transmitted.

17. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~, characterized in that the radio receiver (14, 16) is a miniature radio receiver.